

**CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA  
ORDINANCE #04-2019**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA, AMENDING THE WATER AND WASTEWATER TARIFF AND PROVIDING FOR A 1.317% INCREASE TO ALL RATES AND CHARGES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2020 PLUS A 5.0% INCREASE EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2020, AND PROVIDING FOR AUTOMATIC ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS EFFECTIVE WITH THE FIRST BILLING CYCLE EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, BY AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE THREE PREVIOUS FULL YEARS' AVERAGE INCREASE IN THE CPI**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Whittier is responsible to operate and maintain safe, reliable and adequate water resources and sewer resources and services to serve the needs of residents, businesses and visitors to the community of Whittier and;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Whittier accepts state and federal capital grant funding for water and sewer system improvements and to qualify for low-interest loans and bond financing for capital infrastructure, must be able to demonstrate the adequacy of utility rates as well as the financial capacity for debt repayment; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Whittier desires to provide adequate fee-based rates sufficient to cover current operating costs, maintenance, repairs, depreciation, debt service and replacement of existing systems, plus capital expansion as required by WMC 13.04.150 and 13.12.170; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Whittier has not increased water or sewer rates for the City's utility since 2006, and between 2006 and 2018 the consumer price index increased by 27.6%, resulting in a significant loss of purchasing power by the utility necessary to maintain and replace existing utility infrastructure and equipment, and keep up with increased cost of operations; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Whittier's enterprise funds are operated in a manner similar to business entities and should establish charges sufficient to cover the full cost of providing services including direct and indirect costs of operations and maintenance, overhead, and system expansion; and

**WHEREAS**, to acknowledge the need for additional funding for the utility, the administration recommends incremental rate increases in order to avoid "rate shock" to customers, but to ensure the sufficiency of funding needed to maintain current operations and ensure the viability of utility equipment and infrastructure in the near future; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed rate increase for all water and sewer rates is established at 1.317% beginning January 1, 2020 plus an additional 5.0% increase effective October 1, 2020, and thereafter, all water and sewer rates are increased effective the first billing cycle of each year, by an amount equal to the three previous full years' average increase in the Anchorage consumer price index for all urban consumers (for example, January 1, 2021 rates will increase based on the three-year average CPI for 2017, 2018 and 2019).

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE WHITTIER CITY COUNCIL ORDAINS:** the following rate schedule shall apply to all water and sewer services within the City of Whittier and shall be reviewed as required by 13.04.150 and 13.12.170.

**Section 1.**        **Classification** This is a non-code ordinance.



**Section 2.**      **Effective Date** The water and sewer rates set out in this ordinance become effective with the first billing cycle of January 2020 and the billing cycle in October 2020, with subsequent rate increases being effective the first billing cycle of January each year thereafter.

**Section 3.**      **Automatic Rate Adjustments** Beginning January 1, 2021 and each January 1 thereafter, all Water and Sewer Rates are to be adjusted annually beginning the first billing of each calendar year to reflect an average of the three previous published years' annual increases in the Consumer Price Index, All Items, 1982-84=100 for all Urban Consumers, Anchorage, Alaska Area ("CPI") as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (For example, 2021 rates will reflect an increase based on the average CPI for 2017-2019).

## **WATER RATE SCHEDULE RECURRING SERVICE CHARGES**

The rates and charges shown on Schedules A through C are the monthly service charges for water service only. Assessments, contributions in aid of construction or charges for specific services beyond the scope of normal water services (e.g., special construction of a long service line; repair of damage which was the responsibility of the customer) are in addition to the monthly service charges.

### **Schedule A - Unmetered Residential Accounts**

This schedule applies to unmetered residential accounts including single-family, duplex, triplex and multiple-family buildings with a service connection no larger than 1". The monthly service charges the Utility bills each account are comprised of a Usage Charge for each dwelling unit and a Customer Charge.

	<u>1/1/2020</u>	<u>10/1/2020</u>
<b>Monthly Service Charges:</b>		
<b>Usage Charge (per dwelling unit)</b>	\$47.79	\$50.18
<b>Customer Charge (per account)</b>	\$16.36	\$17.18

### **Schedule B - Metered Commercial and Multiple-Dwelling-Unit Residential Accounts**

This schedule applies to metered commercial and residential accounts including duplex and triplex, mobile home parks, and multiple-family buildings. The monthly service charges the Utility bills each account are comprised of a Volume Rate for each 1 gallon of water consumed and a Customer Charge and a Meter Charge for each meter used which varies according to the size of the meter(s) used.

Metering requirements are contained in chapter A of the **Customer Rights and Responsibilities** section. (see **Rules and Regulations of the Whittier Water & Wastewater Department**)

	<u>1/1/2020</u>	<u>10/1/2020</u>
<b>Volume Rate per 1 Gallon</b>	\$0.007234	\$0.007596
<b>Customer Charge (per account)</b>		
<b>Service Size</b>		
Less than 1"	\$14.10	\$14.81
1"	\$16.17	\$16.98
1 1/2"	\$24.80	\$26.04
2"	\$34.16	\$35.87
3"	\$56.05	\$58.85
4"	\$87.36	\$91.72
6"	\$258.05	\$270.96

## **SEWER RATE SCHEDULE RECURRING SERVICE CHARGES**

### **Commercial Wastewater Service Adjustment**

Monthly billings may be adjusted for a commercial service that consumes water that is not returned to the municipal wastewater system. In order to qualify for an adjustment, the customer must petition the City either separately meter the water that is not returned to the wastewater system, and demonstrate that the separately metered water will not enter the wastewater system or separately meter the water that is returned to the wastewater system. Upon review and approval, the City will deduct the volume of separately metered water that is not returned to the wastewater system from the total metered use prior to calculation of the volume charge each month.

### **RESIDENTIAL DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL SERVICE**

	<u>1/1/2020</u>	<u>10/1/2020</u>
<b><u>Schedule A - Unmetered Accounts</u></b>		
Usage Charge (per dwelling unit)	\$47.79	\$50.18
Customer Charge (per account)	\$12.10	\$12.70

### **Schedule B - Metered Commercial and Multiple-Dwelling-Unit Residential Accounts**

Volume Rate per 1 Gallon of water usage	\$0.007234	\$0.007596
Customer Charge (per account)	\$12.10	\$12.70

## **NONRECURRING SERVICE CHARGES AND FEES**

### **Water turn-on/turn-off (per visit)**

During business hours	\$67.38	\$70.74
During non-business hours	\$188.96	\$198.40

### **Fees for water service connections installed by WWWD.**

#### **This charge includes permit and inspection fees.**

1"	\$688.96	\$723.40
1 1/2"	\$835.87	\$877.66
2"	\$992.91	\$1042.55
3"	\$1175.28	\$1234.04
4"	\$1403.24	\$1473.40
5"	\$1656.53	\$1739.36
6"	\$1980.75	\$2079.78
8"	\$2340.42	\$2457.44

### **Temporary off-site construction service annual permit**

Per vehicle for tanker trucks	\$45.80	\$48.09
Per site for non-vehicle projects	\$45.80	\$48.09
Permit administration fee	\$45.80	\$48.09

### **Other fees and charges**

Reconnection or restoral charge	\$151.98	\$159.57
Unauthorized turn-on/turn-off	\$151.98	\$159.57
Dishonored checks	\$35.00	\$35.00

**ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITTIER, this 23<sup>rd</sup>  
day of December, 2019.**

**Schedule C Special Customers**

(1) Temporary construction service to a parcel using the service line that will serve the building under construction. Customers in need of water service under this schedule must obtain a permit. The monthly service charges shall be those specified in Schedules A or B above.

(2) Temporary off-site construction or other use requiring a connection to a fire hydrant. Customers in need of water service under this schedule must obtain a permit. The monthly service charges are specified below.

<b><u>Monthly Service Charges</u></b>	<b><u>1/1/2020</u></b>	<b><u>10/1/2020</u></b>
<b>Volume Rate per 1 Gallon</b>	\$0.007234	\$0.007596
<b>Customer Charge (per account)</b>		
<b>Service Size</b>		
Less than 1"	\$14.10	\$14.81
1"	\$16.17	\$16.98
1 1/2"	\$24.80	\$26.04
2"	\$34.16	\$35.87
3"	\$56.05	\$58.85
4"	\$87.36	\$91.72
6"	\$258.05	\$270.96

**Water Meter Charge**


A monthly water meter charge shall be collected from users for water meters owned by the utility.

	<b><u>1/1/2020</u></b>	<b><u>10/1/2020</u></b>
<b>Meter/Service Size</b>	<b>Monthly Charge</b>	
Less than 1"	\$5.75	\$6.04
1"	\$14.39	\$15.11
1 1/2"	\$21.58	\$22.66
2"	\$28.77	\$30.21
3"	\$43.16	\$45.32
4"	\$57.55	\$60.43
6"	\$86.32	\$90.64

**Introduced By:** Dave Dickason  
**Introduction Date:** 23 December 2019  
**Public Hearing:** 21 January 2020

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Naelene Matsumiya  
City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dave Dickason  
Mayor

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Absent: 1